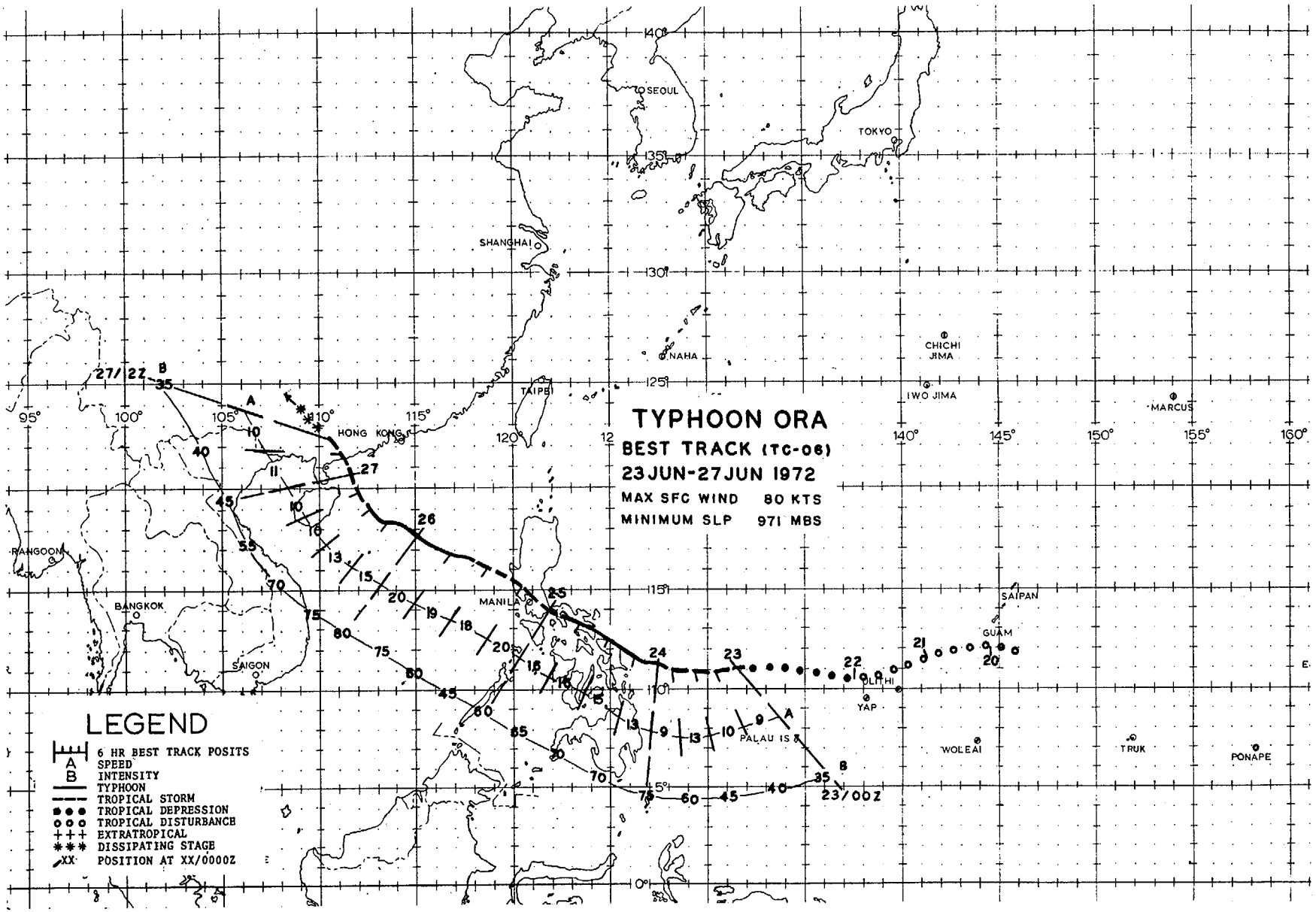
TYPHOON ORA
BEST TRACK (TC-06)
23 JUN-27 JUN 1972
MAX SFC WIND 80 KTS
MINIMUM SLP 971 MBS
LEGEND
6 HR BEST TRACK POSITS
A SPEED
B INTENSITY
TYPHOON
TROPICAL STORM
TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
EXTRATROPICAL
DISSIPATING STAGE
XX POSITION AT XX/0000Z
SEOUL
TOKYO
SHANGHAI
NAHA
TAIPEI
HONG KONG
RANGOON
BANGKOK
SAIGON
MANILA
CHICHI JIMA
IWO JIMA
MARCUS
SAIPAN
GUAM
YAP
ULITHI
PALAU IS
WOLEAI
TRUK
PONAPE
27/12Z
23/00Z

The beginning stages of Ora can be traced to a closed cyclonic circulation in the equatorial trough south of Guam on 20 June. During the next four days, the system moved westward at 14-17 kt across the Philippine Sea with little development.

Reconnaissance aircraft, on the afternoon of the 23rd, observed a 40 nm calm area with a central pressure of 1006 mb, 330 nm east of Leyte Gulf. Ora was poorly organized at this time, having maximum winds of 35 kt in the northern periphery.

Ora slowed and intensified rapidly during the next 18 hours, reaching typhoon force before skirting the northern coast of Samar (Figure 4-5). She later moved ashore on the Bicol peninsula near Legaspi.

Prior to landfall, a mid-tropospheric high cell had begun to build south of the Ryukyu chain causing Ora to accelerate and veer to a more northerly track. She crossed southern Luzon at speeds of 16-20 kt on the 25th, emerging over the South China Sea that evening.

Legaspi City observed a minimum pressure of 970.7 mb in the eye of Ora and a gust of 110 kt from the south (24/1703 GMT) after passage of the center. A 24-hour total of 9.3 in. of rain was measured at Legaspi during Ora's transit. Eye passage was recorded near Clark Air Base that afternoon (25/0510 GMT). Maximum winds at Clark were estimated at 39 kt with a peak gust of 56 kt and minimum sea level pressure of 973.5 mb. As Ora passed north of Manila, the Weather Bureau Office in Quezon City measured gusts of 65 kt.

Manila was particularly hard hit by Ora as torrential rains caused waist-deep floodwaters in many parts of the city. Electrical power to most parts of the city

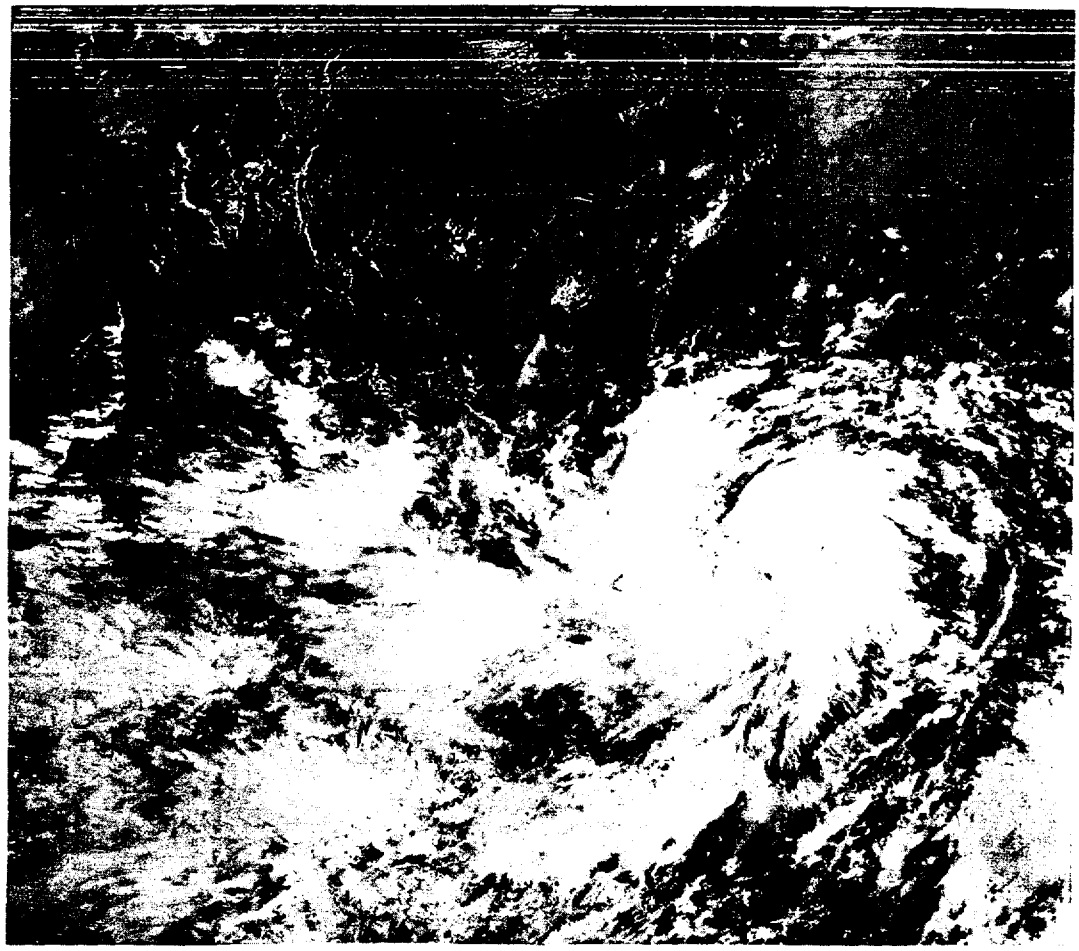

FIGURE 4-5. *Typhoon Ora 120 nm east of Samar Island, 23 June 1972, 2355 GMT (DAPP data).*

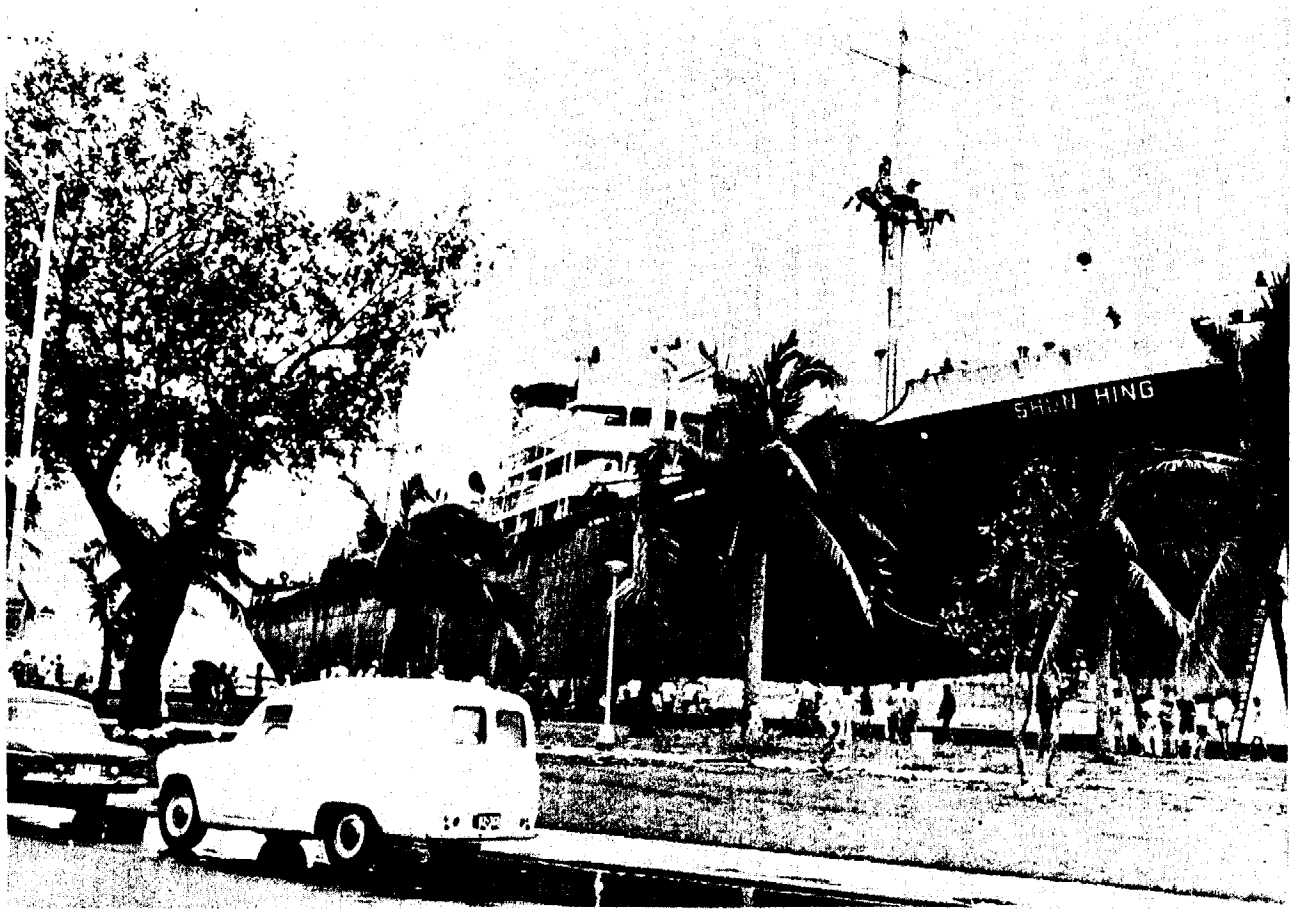

FIGURE 4-6. *Aftermath of Typhoon Ora--the Singapore ship SHUN HING run aground on Roxas Boulevard, Manila.--Courtesy of* Mariners Weather Log, *EDS, NOAA.*

was interrupted and water service was cut. Several ocean-going vessels anchored in Manila Bay were blown ashore along Roxas Boulevard. These vessels included the Singapore freighter SHUN HING, the Philippine flagship PHIL-ASIA ORANI, the ENCANTADA MANILA, and the PMI COLLEGE (Figure 4-6).

Ora left a death toll of 131 persons with an additional 385,000 people homeless. Property damage was estimated near 15 million dollars (U.S.). One maritime casualty, occurring outside the Manila area, was the capsizing of the MV VARTE, sailing from Legaspi City to Rapu-Rapu Island in the Bicol region. One passenger drowned, three were reported missing, and eight survived.

After leaving Luzon, Ora continued her northwest track at 20 kt while crossing the South China Sea. Climatologically, this is an unusually high speed for June. As Ora approached Hainan Island on the evening of the 26th, she began to slow and turn to a more northerly course.

The West German ship HAVELSTEIN BOELWERFT, located 55 miles south-southeast of the center, experienced 65-kt winds and a minimum sea level pressure of 995.8 mb (26/1200 GMT). Early on the 27th, Ora weakened to tropical storm force, and that afternoon, crossed the South China coast east of the Luichow peninsula. Ora degenerated rapidly into an area of low pressure as she moved inland.

During Ora's transit of the South China Sea, reconnaissance aircraft reported sustained winds of typhoon force in the southeast quadrant, although no wall cloud was present (Figure 4-7). This unusual feature has been noted in other years. Probably the best documentation was provided by Fett[3] (1968) concerning observations in Typhoon Billie in 1967.

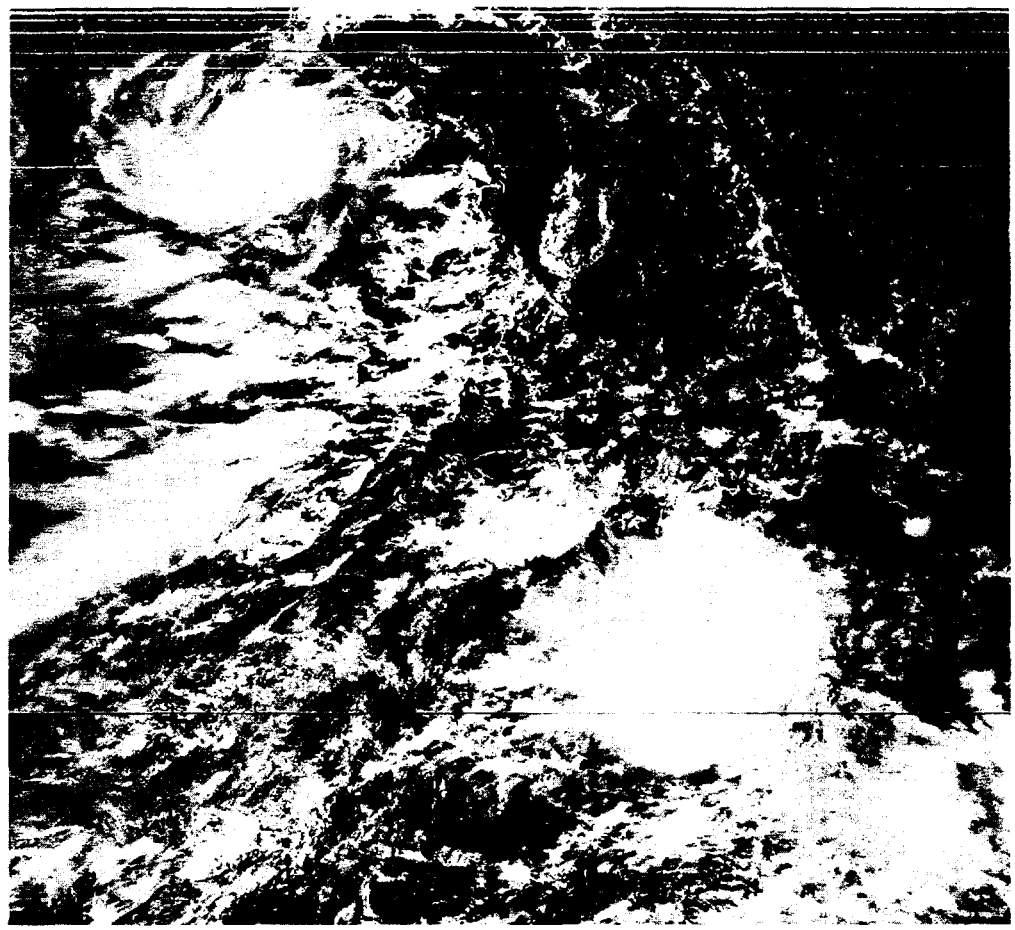

FIGURE 4-7. *Typhoon Ora in the northern South China Sea 330 nm west-northwest of Luzon. Surface center is delineated by low-level cloudiness on eastern edge of cirrus canopy, 26 June 1972, 0410 GMT (DAPP data).*

[3]Fett, R. F., "Some Unusual Aspects Concerning the Development and Structure of Typhoon Billie," Monthly Weather Review, Vol. 96, No. 9, September 1968, pp 637-648.